

## An Afternoon At Harajuku

by Mitch

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Summary: Lita and Mina relax at Harajuku...then a Cardian attacks.

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> It was a rather pleasant Saturday. Mina had called me the  
previous<br>night and asked me if we could spend the next day  
shopping at Harajuku.  
>I figured deserved the rest with all that had happened to me lately.  
<br>First, that vine monster, then Amy gets kidnapped by a monster  
that  
>reminded me of...planes, and finally I was trapped with Ann during  
an <br>earthquake. I guessed I could have some fun for once. I'm Lita  
Kino,  
>I'm also Sailor Jupiter.<br>  
> I hadn't been at Harajuku for a while. I've been so busy with  
<br>schoolwork and being a Sailor Scout since I moved to the 10th  
Section  
>that I feel almost confined. It was great just to shop like an  
<br>ordinary girl for a while. After a lot of window shopping and a  
little  
>buying, we went to the food court and sat down.<br>  
> "You know," I whispered, "Serena once told me that she and Amy  
had<br>an adventure starting here once."  
><br> "So I heard," replied Mina, "but let's try to not talk shop,  
  
>okay?"<br>  
> I silently agreed. I liked being Sailor Jupiter, but there was a  
<br>lot of pressure that came with the job. Mina had that pressure  
longer  
>than the rest of us, so she would know. I sipped the drink I had  
<br>bought earlier, hoping to forget my recent problems.  
><br> "That's a lemon-lime drink, right?" asked Mina.  
><br> "Yeah, so?"

><br> "You shouldn't sip it so fast, or you'll look like cross  
between  
>yourself and Serena's hair! HA HA HA!!!"<br>  
> "Uh, yeah. That's...funny," I sputtered out. I never could get  
<br>her jokes, but I tried to be a good sport about it.  
><br> "You know," I said, "all this time, we've never really gotten  
to  
>talk. What was your life post-Silver Millinium, pre-Sailor Scout?"  
<br>  
> And she told me. Mina told me of her parents, her friends, how  
<br>she met Artimus, and her early days as Code Name Sailor V.

><br> "You went to Rome?" I exclaimed. "I'm so jealous! I always  
  
>wanted to visit there!"<br>  
> "Well," said Mina, "I really wanted to see Hawaii, but Rome  
wasn't<br>bad maybe you'll see it someday."  
><br> "I hope so," I said while smiling. I glanced at Mina and  
noticed  
>how femimine she is. She was almost sterotypical. Sometimes, I've  
<br>wondered what I'd be like if I was more femimine. I already knew  
I'm  
>not the tomboy people said I was. Still, sometimes I wondered...<br>

> My thoughts were interupted when I saw people running out of a  
<br>nearby apartment store.  
><br> "Think it's a closeout?" asked Mina.  
><br> "Doubtful."  
><br> A monster appeared from the store. It was female and looked  
like  
>a walking mirror. She was laughing manically, as some of the  
monsters<br>we've fought are prone to do.  
><br> "I am Bad Reflection!" she delaired, "I have come to take the  
  
>energy of shoppers!"<br>  
> "So much for a day off," I said.<br>  
> "I don't know," said Mina, "this seems like an easy one." <br>  
> In all the craziness, we transformed and faced the monster. <br>

> "Hey, you!" I shouted, "Malls are for browzing, not for  
<br>terrorizing!"  
><br> "Too bad for you that we're out of money," said Sailor Venus,  
"so  
>prepare to be served some justice!"<br>  
> "We are Sailor Jupiter...!"<br>  
> "And Sailor Venus!"<br>  
> "We will right wrongs...!"<br>  
> "And triumph over evil!"<br>  
> And that means you!" We said the list line in unison.<br>  
> "HA HA HA!" laughed Bad Reflection, "You Scouts have been  
<br>troubling us far too long. It's time for you to see the light!"

><br> The reflection on her mirror surface shone at us. I blocked my  
  
>face and wondered how Venus was doing. <br>  
> "VENUS CRESENT BEAM SMASH!"<br>  
> My question was answered when a familiar yellow light beam  
<br>shattered the mirror part of Bad Reflection in half.  
><br> "I'm not so worried," said the monster, "gaze upon your

>reflections, kids!"<br>  
> I looked at the mirror part of her. I saw Lita Kino, but it was  
<br>the way others saw Lita. She was grim, scary, and bullying. She  
was  
>nasty, menacing, and unpleasent. Was that me? Was that how people  
<br>saw me? Was I really all muscle and no...compassion?  
> <br> "No! -No-! NO!" I shouted. "I'm not really like that! That's  
  
>just how some people see me! Maybe that's how I seem to come  
across<br>sometimes, but that's an exaggeration!"  
> <br> True, I was tough sometimes but I was hardly without feeling.  
  
>I had my own loves, losses, and interests like everyone else. I had  
<br>friends and I had morals. I was hardly a bully and I never  
actually  
>-looked- for fights. I just got involved in one when I figured I  
was<br>struggling for what was right. I was a -person-, not a  
monster.  
> <br> Bad Reflection just smiled at me.  
><br> "Would you like a -closer- look?"  
><br> "NO!" I would have broken my part of the mirror, but Venus was  
  
>under it looking at her's. I wouldn't endanger her like that.<br>  
  
> Just then, a familar white rose came down between us and the  
<br>monster. I looked up and saw the Moonlight Knight, standing on  
the  
>top of an escalator.<br>  
> "Sailor Scouts," he said, "when the world has a bad reflection  
on<br>you, you must prove them wrong. Prove that you are more than  
what  
>people say you are."<br>  
> I turn back to Bad Reflection, about to do what he suggested.  
All<br>the monsters I destroyed was never because of malice, but out  
of  
>compassion for the victims. Actually, I was always ticked at the  
<br>monsters, but consern for the victims came first. You might say  
that I  
>was always fighting for love, like Sailor Moon always said she  
did.<br>  
> "Want to do this together?" asked Venus, a little more quiet  
than<br>usual.  
><br> "Yeah," I answered.  
><br> "JUPITER THUNDER CRASH!"  
><br> "VENUS CRESCENT BEAM SMASH!"  
><br> I always liked the combined attacks. I figured that they  
brought  
>more togetherness to the team.<br>  
> Our attacks hit the monster. She turned into a tarot card with  
<br>her picture on it which burned out.  
> <br> I looked up and saw the Moonlight Knight.  
><br> "Well done Sailor Scouts. Adeu."  
><br> He stepped into the shadows like he always did. I really  
admired  
>him, but so did Sailor Moon. At least she was still after Darien.  
I<br>sighed. Sailor Moon had her Tuxedo Mask, but I didn't think I  
was that  
>lucky. Strange, how this guy reminded me of both Darien and Tuxedo  
<br>Mask. Well, it was Lita who was looking for a boyfriend, not  
Sailor

>Jupiter.<br>  
> I turned to Sailor Venus. She was looking surprisingly down.<br>  
  
> "Venus?" I asked almost hesitantly, "what...did you see...if  
you<br>want to talk about it?"  
><br> She sighed.  
><br> "Jupiter, I saw a very fragile Mina Aino. -Very- fragile. A very  
  
>weak girl."<br>  
> She turned to me.<br>  
> "Jupiter, am I really like that? I mean, I'm probably the  
most<br>delicate of us but does that mean...?"  
><br> "You? You've been doing this longer than the rest of us. Just  
  
>because your physically more vulnerable than us doesn't mean you're  
<br>weak. It would be like judging me from my...height."  
><br> She stood blankly at me for a second.  
><br> "Jupiter, I...er...that is...I'm sorry..."  
><br> "No, that's okay. It's over now. Sometimes first impressions  
  
>can be wrong impressions."<br>  
> She smiled.<br>  
> "And there's usually more than meets the eye."<br>  
> "You know, we should change back."<br>  
> "Yeah."<br>  
> That night, Ken called me about the mall incident. I told him  
<br>that Mina and I were never near the monster, which was true in a  
way.  
>I hated to keep things from him, but it was part of the job  
sometimes.<br>I told him that we should get together soon. I never  
really introduced  
>him to my friends. He agreed and we hung up.<br>  
> I lay on the bed thinking about that day. I was more gentle  
than<br>people thought. I was more than a black belt. I was a cook, a  
  
>flowerist, and a homemaker. None of those are usually in the  
job<br>description of a bully. Besides, I had friends who cared for  
me and I  
>liked them back. Bad Reflection was wrong and she was wrong about  
<br>Mina. There's more than one way to be strong and Mina was one of  
the  
>strongest people I knew. I went to sleep with only my potted  
plants<br>to keep me company.  
> <br>End  
> <p><p>

End  
file.